

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, 17-25, and 28-30 remain in the application. Claims 1, 9, 13, and 21 have been amended.

In the final Office Action mailed July 11, 2006, the Examiner allowed claims 18-20 and 28-30, which applicants acknowledge with appreciation. The remaining claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the applicants did not “disclose a compensating for altering a resistance in sensing branches of sense amplifier, or how to alter a resistance in inverts of sense amplifier.” The remarks further state that “applicant just supporting a compensating circuit is provided that corrects for a voltage offset between the inverters only ([0011]), but not reveal any altering a resistance in sensing branches.”

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the claims.

Corrections to Specification and Drawing

Figure 2 has been amended to delete the duplicate occurrence of reference numeral 180. The inverter at the bottom of Figure 2 is now referenced with number 185. The specification has been changed on page 5, line 12, to conform to the drawing. No new matter has been added. Approval and entry of these amendments and revised substitute formal Figure 2 is respectfully requested.

Response to § 112 Rejection

The Examiner’s comments appear to focus on the altering of resistance in the “sensing branches” of the sense amplifier. Applicants have removed the recitation of “sensing branches” from the objected independent claims 1, 9, 13, and 21. Each of these claims now recites a step of or means for altering a resistance in the sense amplifier.

The foregoing amendment conforms to the specification which indicates at page 5, starting at line 14, the use of additional transistors 170 and 180 operating as voltage controlled resistors (see page 6, line 3) to alter a resistance in the amplifier. In a telephone conference with the Examiner on January 9, 2007, this proposed change was approved.

In that telephone conference, the Examiner also requested additional language showing coupling of the delaying means to the sense amplifier enable signal. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the delaying means "comprising a pair of inverters coupled to a sense amplifier enable signal" for delaying the disconnection of the bit lines from the sense amplifier after the latch has been coupled to a supply source.

Independent claims 9, 13, and 21 have been amended to recite receiving and delaying the sense amplifier enable signal.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims remaining in this application are clearly in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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ERT:jk

Enclosure:

1 Sheet of Replacement Drawings (Figure 2)

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